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Dear Hal:

There's not been very much happening out here but I am enclosing some articles which you may find useful + I'll comment on the enclosures shortly.

But first I wanted to let you know that "COPA" will be holding its conference in the Washington, D.C. area from June 13th to June 15th. I will not be able to attend for it is too costly. I'm still behind in paying for my vacation to Florida which was fairly expensive. I had to call up one credit card company + asked for an extension of time which they agreed to.

Actually I was still mad at "COPA" for how they treated me at last year's conference. I never received a reply to my letter to them (most probably because John Judge never circulated it as it would've hit COPA and him pretty hard).

My feeling about COPA is that this

Year's event was late in being put together & so it suffered from that alone. Their form letter requested abstracts or articles & the deadline was a mere five days from receipt of the letter!!! (I was toying with the idea of writing the most ridiculous conspiracy theory in existence I could think of but my logical mind said — no — not even satire could help "COPA" through these days. And the funny thing is that I just saw a grafitti on the wall which read: "KENNEDY'S THROAT — ROSTOW DID THE OPERATION."!!).

I know by now you've heard & read about the ARRB's "decision" to get the Z-film publicly available. Even the S.F. Chronicle had to publish something on that. With institutions like the ARRB & the S.F. Chronicle around who needs enemies?!

I'm still working on completing my article on the ARRB's performance to date which the English publication is expecting me to send them. I think they'll put it in their August issue. When it appears I'll send you a copy.

A recent newsletter I received from "BACK CHANNELS" magazine which discusses the JFK case & other related matters states that a new book will be out in the Fall, 1997. It is to be called "OSWALD, THE WARREN COMMISSION & THE CIA". No author or publishing house was mentioned but I will call the editor of "BACK CHANNELS" & find out more.

I would doubt that this above-mentioned book is the same as a new book due out by writer, Max Holland. His book is being called "A Need To Know" and Houghton Mifflin is the publisher.

See one of the enclosed articles by Max Holland in the "Washington Spectator". Holland has appeared previously in that journal which I know I sent you a copy. I believe you said you knew of him. Have you heard of either the Holland book or the afore-mentioned book in which the Warren Commission is part of the title? I intend writing Houghton Mifflin to see if I can get a copy to review for various journals.

Holland's defense of both the Warren Commission & the ARRB is a double travesty. His biases reveal a lack of interest in disclosure where it counts. Notice Holland's mention of Senator Russell's conversation with LBJ on what they thought of the Vietnam war. Why didn't Holland mention the Russell-LBJ conversation about the time when the Warren Report was due out where both disagreed on the Single Bullet theory? Holland had to know of this if he's as diligent as his profession requires him to be.

Other articles of note which I've enclosed I'd like to call your attention to -

First, Gary Aguilar's excellent response in a local paper to a defense of the Warren Commission. I could've added more & in fact, Gary told me he had more to say but space limitations had to be followed.

Second, Joe Backes (whom you've met) writes on what the ARRB has "uncovered". It is a good summary but what is needed are more hard hitting exposes of what these "distinguished" Board members are doing.

Third, see the article by Lifton which discusses his views on the "alteration" of the Z-film.

Fourth, there is Fetzer's article presenting his arguments for the so-called "proof" of alteration. I do not buy any of the arguments. Fetzer appeared together with Dr. Mantik at the Lancer conference in Dallas last year & I stood up in the audience & faulted both of them for their spurious "evidences". Mantik apologized to the audience when I called attention to an error he'd made in Z-frame evaluation. At least he was man enough to say "yes - you're right, Hal - I made an error". But Fetzer behaved quite differently & when I stood up & said I am one who simply does not accept Z-film alteration theory he attacked me & said = "Hal - you don't know what you're talking about". There were hisses & boos in the audience directed at me but several people came up to me & defended me. In fact one of the persons who had come up to me [redacted] I bumped into at a lecture (not related to JFK) & he said he'd developed film proof which wipes out Fetzer's arguments (and probably Mantik's too). I told him he should get it published as there are too many articles out there claiming alteration with no rebuttals.

The other articles you'll find of interest. Note the new book on Earl Warren - part of it mentions his role on the Warren Commission but it does not look as if it'll be a very probing look.

Anyway, that is all that is new here on the "Western Front."

Do keep in touch!

Best,
Hal Verb